

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claim 42 as indicated below.

1-29 (Cancelled)

30. (Previously presented) A fluorescent particle, comprising:

a first compound selected from the group consisting of silicon phthalocyanine bis(dimethylhexylvinylsilylooxide) and silicon phthalocyanine bis(trihexylsilylooxide); and a second compound that is a bis(dimethylhexylvinylsilylooxide)-substituted or bis(trihexylsilylooxide)-substituted phthalocyanine, naphthalocyanine, or anthranyllocyanine derivative, or a bis(dimethylhexylvinylsilylooxide)-substituted or bis(trihexylsilylooxide)-substituted hybrid phthalocyanine derivative,

wherein the size of said fluorescent particle is between 0.1 nm and 5000 nm, and wherein said first compound differs in structure from said second compound.

31. (Previously presented) A fluorescent particle according to claim 30, wherein said particle is a latex particle.

32. (Previously presented) A fluorescent particle according to claim 30, wherein said particle is a silica particle.

33. (Withdrawn) A fluorescent particle according to claim 30, wherein said first compound and said second compound are each bis(dimethylhexylvinylsilylooxide)-substituted compounds.

34. (Withdrawn) A fluorescent particle according to claim 30, wherein said first compound is silicon phthalocyanine bis(dimethylhexylvinylsilylooxide), and said second compound is silicon 2,3-naphthalocyanine bis(dimethylhexylvinylsilylooxide).

35. (Withdrawn) A fluorescent particle according to claim 30, wherein said first compound is silicon phthalocyanine bis(dimethylhexylvinylsilylooxide), and said second compound is silicon phthalocyanine bis(trihexylsilylooxide).

36. (Withdrawn) A fluorescent particle according to claim 30, wherein said first compound is silicon phthalocyanine bis(dimethylhexylvinylsilylooxide), and said second compound is silicon

[di(1,6-diphenyl-2,3-naphthalocyanine)] (2,3-naphthalocyanine) (2,3-tert-butylphthalocyanine) bis(dimethylhexylvinylsilylooxide).

37. (Withdrawn) A fluorescent particle according to claim 30, wherein said first compound is silicon phthalocyanine bis(dimethylhexylvinylsilylooxide), and said second compound is silicon [di(1,6-diphenyl-2,3-naphthalocyanine)] [di(2,3-tert-butylphthalocyanine)] bis(dimethylhexylvinylsilylooxide).

38. (Withdrawn) A fluorescent particle according to claim 30, wherein said first compound is silicon phthalocyanine bis(dimethylhexylvinylsilylooxide), and said second compound is silicon [di(2,3-naphthalocyanine)] [di(1,4-diphenylphthalocyanine)] bis(dimethylhexylvinylsilylooxide).

39. (Withdrawn) A fluorescent particle according to claim 30, wherein said first compound is silicon phthalocyanine bis(dimethylhexylvinylsilylooxide), and said second compound is silicon [di(1,6-diphenyl-2,3-naphthalocyanine)] diphthalocyanine bis(dimethylhexylvinylsilylooxide).

40. (Withdrawn) A fluorescent particle according to claim 30, wherein said first compound is silicon phthalocyanine bis(dimethylhexylvinylsilylooxide), and said second compound is silicon [di(1,6-diphenyl-2,3-naphthalocyanine)] [di(2,3-dicyanophthalocyanine)] bis(dimethylhexylvinylsilylooxide).

41. (Withdrawn) A fluorescent particle according to claim 30, wherein said first compound is silicon phthalocyanine bis(dimethylhexylvinylsilylooxide), and said second compound is silicon 2,3-naphthalocyanine bis(dimethylhexylvinylsilylooxide).

42. (Currently amended) A fluorescent particle according to claim 30, comprising a first and second compound wherein said first compound is silicon phthalocyanine bis(dimethylhexylvinylsilylooxide), and said second compound is silicon [di(1,6-diphenylnaphthalocyanine)] diphthalocyanine bis(dimethylhexylvinylsilylooxide).

43. (Withdrawn) A fluorescent particle according to claim 30, wherein said particle further comprises an antibody.

44. (Withdrawn) A fluorescent particle according to claim 30, wherein said particle further comprises a nucleic acid.

45. (Cancelled herein).

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46. (Withdrawn) A fluorescent particle according to claim 37, wherein the size of said particle is between 1 nm and 1000 nm.